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DEC '15
COVER A

ASSASSIN'S CREED®





ASSASSIN'S C R E E D®

+ TRIAL BY FIRE

In an instant, Charlotte de la Cruz had her normal, boring, life turned upside down when the Assassins Xavier Chen and Galina Voronina plucked her out of her San Diego apartment...

And dropped her into the Animus, and in Salem, 1692. On the eve of the infamous Witch Trials.

With no time to find her feet, Charlotte dives into the memories of her cantankerous ancestor, the Master Assassin, Tom Stoddard, looking for the secret that will save the Assassin Brotherhood ...

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Salem, 1692.

DING DING DING

THE CALM
BEFORE
THE STORM.

I REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME I WITNESSED A SUN SUCH AS THIS. A BOY ON HIS FIRST VOYAGE, BEING ALONE SCARED ME GREATLY.

THIS BOOK WAS ALL I HAD. I READ AND RE-READ IT. BROUGHT ME SOLACE.

I AM SURE MOST PEOPLE WOULD CONSIDER IT ODD...

HOW THINGS CHANGE.

FITTING, I PRESUME...

...AS IT'S MAINLY A STORY ABOUT SINNERS, THE DEVIL AND HELL.

...FOR ONE
WHO HAS KILLED
SO MANY.

I'VE LOST
COUNT OF
THE NUMBER OF
MISSIONS SINCE.

SO MANY PLACES,
SO MANY TEMPLARS,
SO MANY ARTIFACTS.

BUT ONE
NEVER FORGETS
THEIR FIRST.

YEAH, THIS IS MY ANCESTOR
TOM STODDARD.
ASSASSIN, RECLUSE, NIHILIST.
FAMILY PRIDE ALL THE WAY.

YOU HERE
FOR EMPLOY,
GOODMAN?

AND HERE
BEGINS THE
GAME...

HELLO,
GOOD MEN.
A FINE MORNING
IT IS.









I DON'T NEED THIS,
AN AMATEUR GUIDING ME.



SHE IS KEEPING UP, THOUGH.



STILL, CLIMBING IS ONE THING.
SURVIVING IS ANOTHER.



WELCOME TO
SALEM TOWN.

LOOK AT
A PERSON IN THE
WRONG MANNER AND
ONE WILL BE ACCUSED
OF BEING A WITCH OR
WIZARD, ARRESTED,
TORTURED AND
KILLED.

CHARMING.

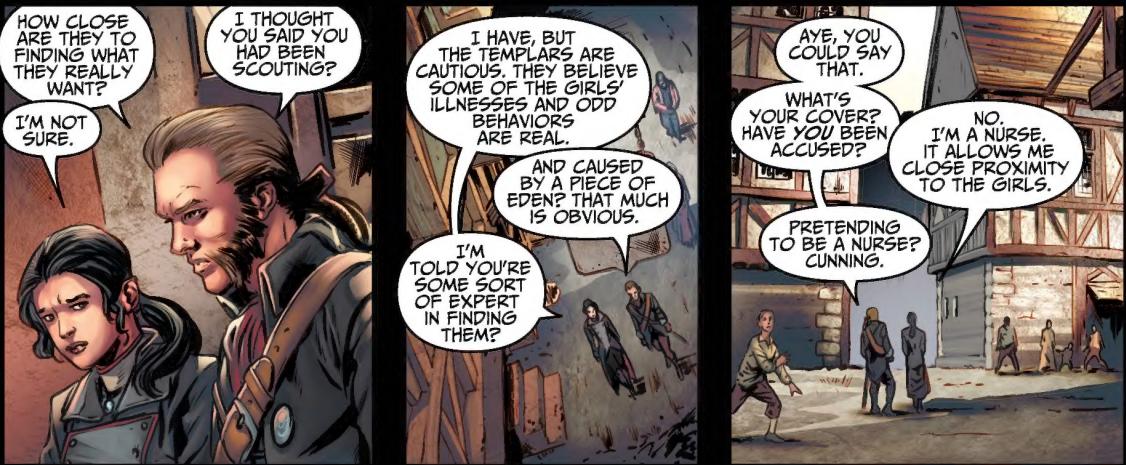
OKAY, JENNIFER
MUST BE JOSEPH'S
ANCESTOR. TOM BETTER
KEEP HER AROUND SO
I CAN FIND OUT IF SHE
KNOWS WHERE THE PIECE
OF EDEN WINDS UP.

THE MADNESS
BEGAN IN JANUARY.
A YOUNG GIRL CAME
DOWN WITH AN ILLNESS
THE DOCTOR COULD
NOT EXPLAIN.

THEN OTHER
GIRLS STARTED TO ACT
ODDLY. LIKE THE FIRST, THEY
WERE STRUCK BY SEIZURES,
WHICH IN ALL PROSPECT
WERE FADED.

THE CHURCH
BELIEVED THE ILLNESSES
WERE THE DOING OF THE DEVIL.
HYSTERIA CONSUMED ALL AND
SOON NEIGHBOR ACCUSED
NEIGHBOR OF WITCHCRAFT.
MOST OF IT TO SETTLE
OLD GRIPES AND
GRUDGES.

WHAT'S
THE REAL
STORY?





SO WHERE
ARE THEY,
INSIDE?

HIDDEN SOMEWHERE.
I HAVE BEEN INSIDE, CARING
FOR THE WOMEN. BUT THE
NUMBERS I'VE COUNTED --
IT'S NOT NEARLY
ENOUGH.

YOU ARE
CONFIDENT
THERE ARE
MORE?

AYE, THEY'VE
TAKEN IN WOMEN
I'VE NEVER SEEN
LEAVE, DEAD
OR ALIVE.

THEY COULD EASILY
HAVE BEEN BROUGHT
OUT ANOTHER WAY, OR AT
A TIME YOU WEREN'T
WATCHING.

PARRIS KNOWS
WE'RE HERE. THIS
COULD BE A TRAP,
OR A DECOY.

NO, IT'S
NO DECOY, I'VE
DEDICATED THE LAST
MONTH OF MY
LIFE TO THIS.

I KNOW
THEY ARE
HERE.

IF YOU DO
SO PROFESS,
NURSE.

I'LL
FIND OUT
WHAT THEY'RE
HIDING.







SO THIS IS WHAT THEY'VE BEEN HIDING.

OH MY GOD, THESE POOR PEOPLE!

PLEASE... HELP US...

KEEP YOUR MIND ON OUR GOAL, NURSE.

PLEASE... THEY KEEP US TRAPPED.

YOU UNBELIEVABLE ASSHOLE!

LOOK AT ME. THE SOONER WE FIND THE PIECE OF EDEN AND TAKE IT OUT OF HERE, THE SOONER THE TEMPLARS WILL LEAVE SALEM.

WE CANNOT LEAVE THEM!

UNTIL THEN, THEY WILL CONTINUE THIS.

BOY, WE'RE LOOKING FOR... A SMALL ARTIFACT. AN OBJECT. PERHAPS SOMETHING WITH JEWELS? ARE THEY HIDING IT HERE?

DO YOU HEAR ME?

BOY?

HE CANNOT SPEAK. HE'S MUTE.

DAVID DOES
NOT HAVE ANY
KNOWLEDGE
OF WHAT YOU
SEEK.

BUT I DO.
IF YOU HELP
ME, GOODMAN,
I CAN BRING
YOU TO IT.

YOU CAN'T
HELP ME, LITTLE
GIRL.

YOU WANT
THE PIECE OF
EDEN, DO
YOU NOT?

I CAN GET
IT FOR YOU,
GOODMAN. I
TRULY CAN.

WHAT
IS YOUR
NAME?

I'LL
SHOW
YOU.

DOROTHY.
DOROTHY
OSBORNE.

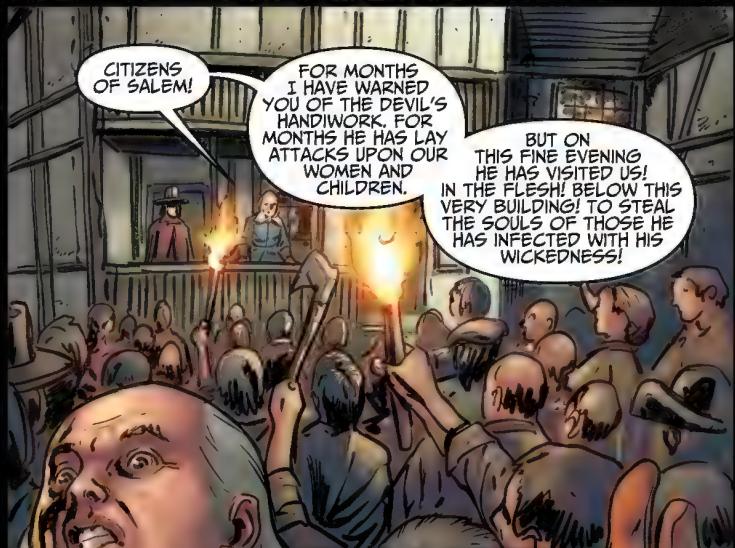
IF YOU'RE
LYING TO ME,
DOROTHY, YOU'LL
WISH YOU'D
NEVER SPOKEN
A WORD.

CRACK

THERE.
GO THERE.









San Diego, 2015.

LET GO OF HER!
LET GO, YOU
FREAKIN' BASTARD!

NGGGHHH!
NGGGHHH!

KODY,
WHAT'S
GOING
ON?

HER HEART
RATE'S SOARING,
XAVIER. SHE'S NOT
USED TO THIS. BUT...
SHE'S FIGHTING
TO STAY IN.

THE
GIRL'S GOT
SPIRIT, GALINA.
WE GOTTA GIVE
HER THAT.

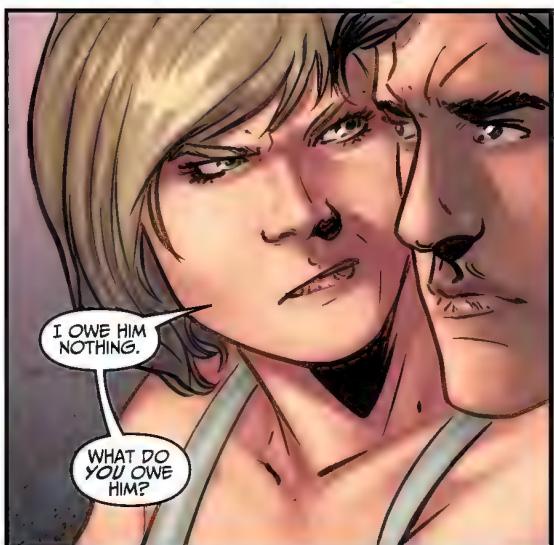
PEOPLE
ARE ALWAYS SO
SURPRISED TO FIND
OUT WHAT THEIR
ANCESTORS ARE
REALLY LIKE.

TOM
STODDARD WAS
ONE OF THE MOST
RUTHLESS ASSASSINS
OF HIS TIME.

SHE'LL NEVER
BE WHAT HE WAS,
NOT EVEN CLOSE.
SHE DOESN'T HAVE
IT IN HER.

GOOD!
BUT PEOPLE
CAN SURPRISE
YOU.

NO, THEY
CAN'T.
JOSEPH
IS A PERFECT
EXAMPLE.





YOU BEST HURRY, OR IT SHALL NOT BE ME HURTING YOUR FRIEND.









KILL
THEM
ALL!

AS
OTHERWISE
YOUR FIRST MISSION
SHALL BECOME
YOUR LAST!

TO BE CONTINUED...

ASSASSIN'S CREED

TRIAL BY FIRE

PART 2 OF 5

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NEXT ON SALE DECEMBER ISSUE



INTO THE DEEP...

Charlotte and the Assassin cell have stumbled on a memory that has unsettled their world, and changed everything they thought they knew. As a voice speaks to her across the centuries, Charlotte must learn to accept that her ancestor, Tom Stoddard, is working for the greater good... And Tom must learn to see beyond the problems in front of him, and to value the actions of the truly brave...



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SALEM

IN 1692, A QUIET PURITAN COLONY WAS THE SETTING FOR DISTURBING EVENTS THAT WOULD ECHO DOWN THE AGES...

In 1626, a small group of Puritans founded the town of Salem on the mouth of the Naumkeag river. They obtained a charter from the British monarchy that gave them the right of free rule so they could practice their Puritan beliefs free from the interference of the Church of England. It was that charter that created the perfect conditions for the horrors to come...

The map of Salem and the surrounding areas, created by W.P. Upnam in 1866, shows the location of the important landmarks and villages of the time and sets the scene for the events that unfolded. It also demonstrates the enduring fascination Salem and the Witch Trials have held for researchers, cartographers, writers and artists down the ages. The Victorian era produced much of the research and data that informs historians today.

While the name "Salem" is mostly associated with the Witch Trials, it actually refers to both Salem Village (now called Danvers) and Salem Town. The first accusations of witchcraft were made in Salem Village, but the courts, and therefore the trials, were held in nearby Salem Town. However, the accused came from all over Essex County. In fact, the vast majority of the accused were from the nearby village of Andover, Ipswich, Beverly, Haverhill, Topsfield and Gloucester, among others.

These towns were in the midst of economic and social upheaval in 1692, but the beginning of the tragedy that was the Witch Trials could conceivably be traced back to the arrival in Salem Village of one Samuel Parris. A former plantation owner from Barbados, and secretly a member of the Templar Order, Parris accepted the position of Village Minister and arrived with his wife, Elizabeth, his daughter Betty, his niece Abigail Williams, and the house slave, Tituba.

According to historians, it was the actions of Betty and Abigail that would lead to the deaths of nineteen people...

TO BE CONTINUED...



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COVER B

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ADM
JESUS

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COVER C

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